



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
District of New Hampshire*

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*Federal Building  
55 Pleasant Street, Room 352  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301*

*603/225-1552*

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**Contact: Thomas P. Colantuono  
United States Attorney  
(603) 225-1552  
Robert M. Kinsella  
Assistant U.S. Attorney**

**HENNIKER, NEW HAMPSHIRE MAN PLEADS  
GUILTY TO MAIL CHARGE IN ANTHRAX HOAX CASE**

**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE:** United States Attorney Tom Colantuono and John McKay, the United States Attorney for the District of Washington, announced that John Victor Kjellman, a resident of Henniker, New Hampshire, pleaded guilty to Obstructing the U.S. Mails in United States District Court in Concord earlier today.

During the court hearing, Kjellman admitted that in July 2002, he mailed an envelope containing cooking flour and a written demand that he be removed from a mailing list to a business in Renton, Washington. Kjellman also acknowledged that he mailed the envelope and its contents to the company because the company had ignored two of his previous requests to remove him from its catalog mailing list.

According to a Plea Agreement that was filed in United States District Court today, Kjellman has agreed to pay \$51,000 in restitution to the victim company, \$6,000 to the Town of Renton, Washington, both of which incurred significant expenses owing to the hoax mailing.

In addition to paying restitution, Kjellman faces a potential prison term of up to six (6) months and a fine of up to \$5,000. He will be sentenced by United States Magistrate Judge James R. Muirhead on July 10, 2003.

After today's court hearing, United States Attorney Colantuono said, "The public needs to be aware that all mailings of suspected dangerous substances are taken extremely seriously. Anthrax hoaxes cause substantial harm to the recipients and Postal Service. They also waste the time and resources of our emergency responders. Anthrax hoaxes are no joke. Every such case will be prosecuted."

The case was investigated by the FBI and is being prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney Robert M. Kinsella, Supervisor of the White Collar Crime Section for the U.S. Attorney's Office.